



You know the drill

by DougJarvus Green-Ellis

Remember: it's this guy versus a guy who likes to fire people.



46 Responses:

12. JGabriel - March 5, 2012 | 11:00 am · [Link](#)

Things are getting nasty at The Cato Institute. It looks like the real reason for the Koch Brother's attempted takeover is to add Cato to it's private shadow network of organizations operating below the radar with the single goal of beating Obama in Novemeber. This is the kind of thing we're up against.

[Ilya Somin via Jonathan Adler @ The Volokh Conspiracy:](#)

Last year, [David and Charles Koch] used their shares to place two of their operatives – Kevin Gentry and Nancy Pfothenauer – on [Cato's] board against the wishes of every single board member save for David Koch. Last Thursday, they used their shares to force another four new board members on us (the most that their shares would allow at any given meeting); Charles Koch, Ted Olson (hired council for Koch Industries), Preston Marshall (the largest shareholder of Koch Industries save for Charles and David), and Andrew Napolitano (a frequent speaker at Koch-sponsored events). Those four – who had

not previously been involved with Cato either financially or organizationally – were likewise opposed by every member of our board save for Gentry, Pfothenauer, and David Koch. To make room for these Koch operatives, we were forced to remove four long-time, active board members, two of whom were our biggest donors. At this moment, the Kochs now control seven of our 16 board seats, two short of outright control.

Why are they forcing out Cato board members, all strong, principled libertarians who have been heavily involved with Cato – financially and organizationally – for years? The answer was given in early November of last year when David Koch, Richard Fink (he of many Koch hats), and Kevin Gentry met with Cato board chairman Bob Levy. **They told Bob that they intended to use their board majority to remove Ed Crane from Cato and transform our Institute into an intellectual ammo-shop for American for Prosperity and other allied (presumably, Koch-controlled) organizations.** That statement of intent is certainly consistent with what we've been hearing from both Kevin Gentry and Nancy Pfothenauer. **They've frequently complained during their short time on our board that Cato wasn't doing enough to defeat President Obama** in November and that we weren't working closely enough with grass roots activists like those at AFP. [**Emphasis added.**]